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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/785,687	02/16/2001	Rocky Stewart	BEAS-01033US3	3903
23910	7590	05/23/2008		
FLIESLER MEYER LLP 650 CALIFORNIA STREET 14TH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94108			EXAMINER BATURAY, ALICIA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2146	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			05/23/2008 PAPER	

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/785,687

**Applicant(s)**

STEWART ET AL.

**Examiner**

Alicia Baturay

**Art Unit**

2146

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 February 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-144a or PTO-144b)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 02/29/2008

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is in response to the amendment filed 29 February 2008.
2. Claims 1 and 11 were amended.
3. Claims 19 and 23 were cancelled.
4. Claims 1-18 and 20-22 are pending in this Office Action.

***Response to Arguments***

5. The objections to claims 1 and 11 regarding minor informalities were addressed and are withdrawn.
6. The rejection is respectfully maintained as set forth in the last Office Action mailed on 31 August 2007. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 and 20-22 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive and the old rejection maintained.
7. ***Applicant Argues:*** While Balabanovic appears to describe the transfer of emails and other audiovisual documents, it does not appear to describe the use of business protocols, as this term is used in the claims to define a business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCp, or other business protocols.

***In Response:*** The examiner respectfully submits that the claim language states that a business protocol vocabulary can be chosen from other business protocols. In the Specification, Applicant states "Using the invention, a c-space owner 214 can create any

number of concurrent c-spaces, each supporting any number of trading partners. Within a c-space, the invention provides asynchronous XML messaging capabilities to allow loosely coupled communication between trading partners 216, 218. This model leverages routing and filter functionality that can be associated with messages in order to classify the set of trading partners that should receive a message, allowing partners and their interactions to be managed individually, based on their role or trading preferences within an e-market. The c-hub is the execution engine of a c-space, allowing the c-space owner and trading partners to create, route, and manage messages within the trading environment. To facilitate the execution of business transactions across a disparate base of trading partners, one embodiment of the invention uses XML as its e-business messaging semantic. FIG. 5 shows some XML transfer paths between trading partners (using c-enablers), and a trading hub hosting a c-space” (see Specification, page 31, lines 3-17). This quoted section allows for the use of XML as an e-business messaging semantic that allows communication between partners. The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols (an XML representation is created in order to send the multimedia chronicle to another user. The XML representation is parsed to create and play the message for user “B” – see Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24). Additionally, Applicant states in the Specification that RosettaNet is an “emerging XML message standard” (see Specification, page 16, line 14) and that XOCP is an acronym for “XML Open Collaboration Protocol” (see Specification, page 21, line 25).

Therefore, it appears that XML is included as an "other business protocol." This renders the rejection proper, and thus the rejection stands.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 11 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso et al. (U.S. 6,161,149) and further in view of Balabanovic (U.S. 6,624,826).

Achacoso teaches the invention substantially as claimed including a system for communicating information among members of a discussion group using a central agent. The central agent receives and stores messages, causing discussions to be maintained (see Abstract).

10. With respect to claim 1, Achacoso teaches a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation

between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCp, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with

the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

11. Claims 11 and 23 do not teach or define any new limitations above claim 1 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.
12. Claims 2-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Achacoso in view of Balabanovic and further in view of Ozzie et al. (U.S. 6,640,241).
13. With respect to claim 2, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow

conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the



routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol.

However, Ozzie teaches the system where routing criteria for a message are specified by the message protocol (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 36-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified by the message protocol. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

14. With respect to claim 3, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 2, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow

conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the

routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead.

However, Ozzie teaches the system where the routing criteria is specified in a message overhead (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the routing criteria being specified in a message overhead. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

15. With respect to claim 4, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 3, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow

conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the

routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message.

However, Ozzie teaches the system where the collaboration hub includes a repository of business trading partner and workflow conversation information which can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message routing mechanism where a repository of participant and conversation information can be matched against a message overhead to determine the routing for a message. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

16. With respect to claim 5, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system that supports conversations

between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary

to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach a message router.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a message router for routing a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable a message router. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

17. With respect to claim 6, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 4, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner



(Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a message filter for filtering a message depending on the content of the message overhead and the content of the repository (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

18. With respect to claim 7, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner

(Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging bridge.

However, Ozzie teaches system further comprising a messaging bridge for transferring messages from a first collaboration space to a second collaboration space (Ozzie, col. 20, lines 38-43).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging bridge. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

19. With respect to claim 8, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner

(Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging gateway.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a messaging gateway for transferring messages from a collaboration space to a business messaging system (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 38-58).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging gateway. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

20. With respect to claim 9, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 8, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCP, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner

(Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63) and the system where the business messaging system is any of an XML, CSML, Ariba NET or equivalent messaging system (Balabanovic, col. 10, lines 4-24).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

21. With respect to claim 10, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the

business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCF, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with



the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a messaging proxy.

However, Ozzie teaches the system further comprising a messaging proxy for transferring messages to a messaging device (Ozzie, col. 21, lines 35-40).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a messaging proxy. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

22. With respect to claim 21, the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic teaches the invention described in claim 1, including a collaboration system that supports conversations between business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 9, lines 11-13) over multiple business protocols, comprising: a central collaboration hub (Achacoso, col. 8, lines 35-37) hosting a plurality of collaboration spaces and capable of automatically receiving and sending messages between business trading partners as part of a workflow conversation between the

business trading partners (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20); wherein a workflow conversation is a collective set of said messages that comprises a workflow between the business-to-business processes operating at two or more business trading partners, and wherein each of said collaboration spaces stores the set of messages for a particular workflow conversation (Achacoso, col. 6, line 61 – col. 7, line 20), and wherein each unique combination of a collaboration space together with a electronic trading business protocol is associated with a unique uniform resource locator (Achacoso, col. 6, lines 47-50).

Achacoso does not explicitly teach the use of specific business protocols.

However, Balabanovic teaches a plurality of business protocol handlers, each of which are configured to recognize a different business-to-business electronic trading business protocol vocabulary chosen from the group of RosettaNet, XOCF, or other electronic trading business protocols, and convert incoming messages for routing within the collaboration hub, and wherein any one of the electronic trading business protocols is selected and used by a business trading partner to allow its business processes to send and receive messages to and from the collaboration hub according to the particular electronic trading business protocol vocabulary and process flow that is used locally at that business trading partner (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 53 – col. 10, line 24), and a messaging protocol that allows each of the business trading partners to use their local electronic trading business protocol vocabulary to allow their business-to-business processes to participate in the workflow conversation and to specify a routing information (Balabanovic, col. 9, lines 53-63), wherein the electronic trading business protocol they use to communicate with the collaboration space is specified by the uniform resource locator that the business trading partner selects to communicate with

the collaboration space (Balabanovic, col. 9, line 67 – col. 10, line 3), and wherein the routing information is then specified by the business-to-business process in a header of the messaging protocol (Balabanovic, Fig. 3b; col. 9, lines 53-63).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Achacoso in view of Balabanovic in order to enable the use of specific business protocols. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate the use of alternative viewing methods if a user does not have an application to view a particular file.

The combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic does not explicitly teach the use of a message router and filter.

However, Ozzie teaches the system including a message router that routes a message (Ozzie, col. 18, lines 19-31) and a message filter that filters a message (Ozzie, col. 16, lines 44-55).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the combination of Achacoso and Balabanovic in view of Ozzie in order to enable the use of a message router and filter. One would be motivated to do so in order to facilitate and enhance communication between businesses.

23. Claims 12-18, 20 and 22 do not teach or define any new limitations above claims 2-10 and 21 and therefore are rejected for similar reasons.

***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alicia Baturay whose telephone number is (571) 272-3981. The examiner can normally be reached at 7:30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Pwu can be reached on (571) 272-6798. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2146

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Alicia Baturay  
May 23, 2008

/Jeffrey Pwu/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2146